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ROTHBURY RURAL DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR



1960



ROTHBURY RURAL DISTRICT

A N N U A L R E P O R T
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND
SURVEYOR AND PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

1960

To the Chairman and Members of the Rothbury Rural District Council

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my first Annual Report on the health and sanitary conditions of the district during the year 1960.

I commenced duties as Medical Officer of Health in November, 1960, hence the report relates largely to the time prior to my appointment.

I wish to take this opportunity to pay tribute to my predecessor Dr. R. Short, who left the district in September, 1960, to take up a new appointment in Edinburgh; we all wish him well in his new post.

The estimated mid-year population for the district remains the same as last year.

The birth rate shows a slight drop from the previous year, but is very near to the national average. It is a source of satisfaction to report that there were no infant deaths during the year. However, the stillbirth rate of 49 per 1,000 total live and stillbirths is high, but is not significant because of the small numbers involved.

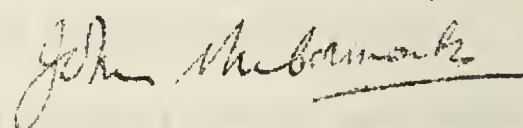
The number of deaths shows a slight fall from the previous year (i.e. 71 to 68) and gives a death rate of 10.6 per 1,000 of the population, which is below the national level.

The Public Health Inspector's report mentions the opening of the Whittingham Sewerage Works. This is a welcomed addition to the sewage disposal arrangements in the district.

In 1955 the estimated number of unfit houses was 43, thus Rothbury Rural District is fortunate in having a comparatively small number of sub-standard properties. However, 28 of these houses are still to be dealt with, and it is to be hoped that progress will be accelerated during the coming year.

I should like to express my sincere thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee, the Clerk of the Council, and particularly to Mr. Oliver, for their help since commencing my duties with the Council in 1960.

I have the honour to be,
Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,


Medical Officer of Health



GENERAL STATISTICS

The area of the district was 167,186 acres.

The number of inhabited houses was 2,089 and the number of new houses completed during the year was 20.

The rateable value was £65,352 and the sum represented by a penny rate was £272.

The estimated mid-year population was 5,510 and this figure was taken when calculating the Birth and Death rate.

VITAL STATISTICS

<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	38	37	75
Illegitimate	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>
Totals	<u>40</u>	<u>38</u>	<u>78</u>
Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 of the population			14.15
Crude Birth Rate multiplied by Comparability Factor			15.98
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births			3.84
<u>Still Births</u>			
Legitimate	1	2	3
Illegitimate	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>
Totals	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>5</u>
Stillbirth rate per 1,000 total live and still births			48.78
Total live and still births			82
<u>Infant Deaths (deaths under 1 year)</u>			
Legitimate	-	-	-
Illegitimate	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Totals	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<u>Infant Mortality Rates</u>			
Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births			-
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births			-
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births			-
<u>Neo-natal Mortality Rate</u>			
Deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births			-
<u>Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate</u>			
Deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births			-
<u>Perinatal Mortality Rate</u>			
Stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and stillbirths			48.78
<u>Maternal Mortality (including abortion)</u>			
Number of deaths			-
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births			-

<u>Deaths</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
	36	32	68
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of the population			12.34
Crude Death Rate multiplied by Comparability Factor			10.61
Deaths from Puerperal Sepsis			-
Deaths from Other Puerperal Causes			-
Deaths from Cancer			15

CHIEF CAUSES OF DEATH

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	-	-	-
Tuberculosis (Other)	-	-	-
Syphilitic Disease	-	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	-
Meningococcal Infections	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-
Measles	-	-	-
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	-	-	-
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	-	-	-
" " Lung, Bronchus	3	-	3
" " Breast	-	-	-
" " Uterus	-	1	1
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	9	2	11
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	1	-	1
Diabetes	-	1	1
Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System	4	12	16
Coronary Disease, Angina	8	-	8
Hypertension with Heart Disease	1	-	1
Other Heart Disease	5	7	12
Other Circulatory Disease	-	1	1
Influenza	-	1	1
Pneumonia	1	1	2
Bronchitis	1	-	1
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	-	-	-
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	-	-	-
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	-	-	-
Nephritis and Nephrosis	-	-	-
Hyperplasia of Prostate	-	-	-
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	-	-	-
Congenital Malformations	-	-	-
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	3	6	9
Motor Vehicle Accidents	-	-	-
All Other Accidents	-	-	-
Suicide	-	-	-
Homicide and Operations of War	-	-	-
Totals	<u>36</u>	<u>32</u>	<u>68</u>

It will be noticed that no death occurred from any infectious disease. The most important cause of death was heart disease, which accounted for 33% of the deaths during the year. Malignant conditions and vascular lesions of the nervous system were each responsible for a quarter of the total deaths. No deaths were due to accidents during the year.

INFANT MORTALITY 1919-1938 AND 1949-1960

Year	Number of Infant Deaths	Infant Mortality per 1,000 Live Births	Infant Mortality England & Wales
1919	2	26.00	89
1920	8	80.10	80
1921	6	60.00	83
1922	1	12.00	77
1923	2	24.00	69
1924	2	25.00	75
1925	1	12.18	75
1926	3	33.30	70
1927	6	95.00	69
1928	7	96.00	65
1929	-	-	74
1930	3	62.50	60
1931	1	12.60	66
1932	3	60.00	65
1933	1	16.10	64
1934	1	12.80	59
1935	7	111.00	57
1936	1	14.08	59
1937	1	12.50	58
1938	-	-	53
1949	4	45.90	32
1950	2	26.60	30
1951	2	23.20	30
1952	-	-	28
1953	1	9.50	27
1954	-	-	25
1955	3	42.25	24.9
1956	1	11.36	24.9
1957	1	12.50	23.1
1958	-	-	22.5
1959	2	20.20	20.7
1960	-	-	21.7

It is very satisfactory to record that no infant death occurred during 1960; this is further evidence of the high standard of maternal and infant care.

Regrettably, there were 4 stillbirths during the year, giving the high rate of 48.78 per 1,000 total live and stillbirths. As the actual numbers involved are small, the high rate per thousand is not statistically significant, and is bound to show considerable fluctuation over the years.

POPULATION

YEAR	POPULATION	YEAR	POPULATION	YEAR	POPULATION
1919	5,600	1930	5,767	1950	5,679
1920	5,507	1931	5,615	1951	5,507
1921	5,968	1932	5,660	1952	5,574
1922	5,963	1933	5,627	1953	5,567
1923	6,011	1934	5,712	1954	5,580
1924	6,093	1935	5,692	1955	5,560
1925	5,959	1936	5,687	1956	5,560
1926	5,877	1937	5,629	1957	5,520
1927	5,877	1938	5,561	1958	5,520
1928	5,808	1939-48 Not Published		1959	5,510
1929	5,888	1949	5,680	1960	5,510

It will be observed that the estimated mid-year population appears to be static.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Scarlet Fever	17	Acute Poliomyelitis	-
Whooping Cough	5	Dysentery	2
Diphtheria	-	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-
Measles	6	Puerperal Pyrexia	-
Pneumonia	7	Smallpox	-
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	-	Paratyphoid Fever	-
Enteric Fever	-	Food Poisoning	-
Erysipelas	3	Encephalitis	-

The total number of infectious diseases during 1960 was small, Scarlet Fever being the most evident with 17 cases notified. Only 6 cases of measles occurred during the year, thus illustrating the well-known two yearly periodicity of the disease (in 1959 there were 53 cases). Dysentery showed a welcome reduction from 19 instances in 1959, to 2 in 1960.

TUBERCULOSIS

Age Groups	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0-15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15-25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25-45	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45+	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-

As in 1959, there was one notified case of tuberculosis, affecting an elderly person in 1960.

IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION

Diphtheria Immunisation

Age on 31.12.60. (i.e. born in year)	Under 1 1960	1-4 1956-1959	5-9 1951-1955	10-14 1946-1950	Under 15 Total
A. Number of children whose last course (primary or booster) was completed in the period 1956-1960.	21	300	208	24	553
B. Number of children whose last course (primary or booster) was completed in the period 1955 or earlier	-	-	191	328	519
C. Estimated mid-year child population	80	337	524		941
Immunity Index 100 A/C	26.25	89.02	44.27		58.76

The diphtheria immunisation index (which is the number of children immunised during the last five years expressed as a percentage of the total child population) is shown above. The level in pre-school children is highly satisfactory. Ideally, it should be higher in the older children. Constant reminders to parents are still necessary to achieve this.

Smallpox Vaccination

Number Vaccinated During Period								Number Re-vaccinated					
District	Under 1	1	2-4	5-14	15 or over	Total	Under 1	1	2-4	5-14	15 or over	Total	
Alnwick U.D.	57	3	-	-	5	65	-	-	1	2	12	15	
Amble U.D.	34	-	6	3	4	47	-	-	-	1	2	3	
Alnwick R.D.	149	8	5	5	7	174	-	-	1	2	18	21	
Rothbury R.D.	65	1	1	1	2	70	-	-	1	-	23	24	
Totals	305	12	12	9	18	356	-	-	3	5	55	63	

Poliomyelitis Vaccination

North No. 1 and 2 Areas

Age Group	Number having received two injections
1 - 15	13,597
15 - 25	4,556
25 - 40	1,624
Over 40	179
Of these, 17,028 received their third injection since the advent of the scheme to 31st December, 1960.	

The above table shows the numbers of persons in the various age groups in the North Nos. 1 and 2 Areas, who have been protected against poliomyelitis. The immunisation rate in the younger age group is excellent, but there is a marked fall in the response of the older age groups.

It cannot be over emphasized that teenage and young adult persons are almost as susceptible to the disease as young children, and should, therefore, be as well protected. Repeated propaganda has failed to persuade this age group to take full advantage of the protection offered. This, however, is a problem common to all authorities throughout the country. There is no easy answer to this problem, and we can only persist in the repeated efforts that are made.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR1960WATER SUPPLIES

The Council supplies the villages of Rothbury, Longframlington, Thropton, Whittingham, Elsdon, Harbottle, Alwinton and Holystone. With the exception of Whittingham all are gravity systems.

The supplies during the year were well maintained and no shortages being experienced.

It seems now certain that the Council will lose its identity as a Water Undertaking and be absorbed by the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company. The change over will probably take place in April, 1962.

SEWERAGE DISPOSAL

July 1960 saw the bringing into operation of the Whittingham works. It was on 5th December, 1951, that the Ministry Investigation was held.

The new works at Longframlington are working satisfactorily.

It is hoped to provide proper treatment works at Wingates, Hepple and Harbottle.

HOUSING

The estimated number of unfit houses in 1955 was 43. Of these, 9 have been closed or demolished, 6 reconstructed and reconditioned by the owners; leaving an estimated number of 28 still to be dealt with.

Four of the houses at White Cottages, Longframlington, were completed by the end of the year, 12 at Thropton and four erected by private owners. The total number of houses in the district is 2089 of which 281 are owned by the Council.

Seventeen houses were made fit during the year as a result of informal action.

Eleven applications were received and approved for Improvement Grants. The average grant paid during the year was £218. Up to date 269 grants have been given.

Eight applications for Standard Grants were approved, making 12 since their inception. Four were completed during the year and fitted with 3 baths, 3 wash-hand basins, 2 hot water supplies, 4 water closets and two with food stores.

FOOD

The Minister has fixed the 1st January, 1962, as being the date when the requirements of the Slaughterhouses Act 1959 shall come into force. Messrs. Mackay and Proudlock are to build a new slaughterhouse, and Messrs. N.L. Wilson and Sons to reconstruct and improve their premises.

No change in the number of food premises has been made during the year. The standard of hygiene is satisfactory.

REFUSE DISPOSAL

No extension of the service has been made during the year. It is hoped to cover the whole district in 1961.

CARAVANS

The Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960, came into force during the year. This can have far reaching consequences as it requires certain standards to be observed. It is early yet, but it seems clear that a number of sites existing in your area will be discontinued either because they interfere with the amenity of the district or they cannot come up to standard.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949					
	Type of Property - Non-Agricultural				Agricultural
	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses	All other (Including Business Premises)	Total of Columns 1, 2 and 3	
1. Number of properties in district	12	1836	118	1966	241
2. Number of properties inspected as a result of:-					
(a) Notifications	-	4	3	7	-
(b) Survey under the Act	10	16	-	26	-
(c) Otherwise (e.g. when visited primarily for some other purpose)	-	-	5	5	-
3. Total inspections carried out including re-inspections	41	36	35	112	-
4. Number of properties inspected (in Sec. 2) which were found to be infested by:-					
(a) Rats	6	8	3	17	-
(b) Mice	-	-	-	-	-
5. Number of infested properties (in Sec. 4) treated by Local Authority	6	8	3	17	-
6. Total treatments carried out including re-treatments	14	12	3	29	-

FACTORIES ACT 1937 & 1948Part 1 of the Act1. INSPECTIONS for purpose of provisions as to health

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Secs. 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authority	1	2	-	-
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	18	10	-	-
(3) Other premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	3	7	-	-
Totals	22	19	-	-

2. CASES in which defects were found - None

